

REMARKS

SUMMARY OF CLAIM STATUS

Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 7, 15, 16, and 21 are rejected. Claims 3-6, 17-20 and 22 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if properly rewritten in independent form. Claims 8-14 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this acknowledgement of patentable subject matter.

Applicant requests the favorable reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the pending rejections and objections, in light of the amendments and the following remarks.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 7 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 7 and 21 have been amended herein to overcome this rejection. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,759,881 to Kizer et al. Examiner states that Kizer discloses the elements of Applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, in the interest of expedited examination, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable limitations of Claim 3, including those of intervening Claim 2. Claim 1, for at least this reason, is allowable. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Applicant respectfully urges the allowance of Claim 1.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kizer et al (ibid.). Examiner avers that it would be obvious to combine the knowledge of one with ordinary skill in the art with the teachings of Kizer to produce

Applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, in the interest of expedited examination, Applicant has amended Claim 15 to incorporate the allowable limitations of Claim. Intervening Claim 16 has also been incorporated. For at least this reason, Claim 15 is allowable. Claim 16 has been cancelled. Applicant respectfully urges the allowance of Claim 15.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 8-14 are allowed. Claims 3-6, 17-20 and 22 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if properly rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this acknowledgement of patentable subject matter.

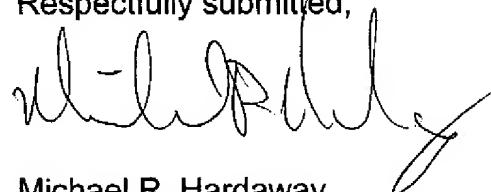
However, Claim 3 has been cancelled, and its allowable limitations have been written into amended Claim 1 along with those of intervening Claim 2. The objection to Claims 4-6, dependent from allowable Claim 1, is thusly made moot. The allowable limitations of Claim 17 have been incorporated into Claim 15, including those of intervening Claim 16. Claims 16 and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 18-20 and 22 depend from and further limit allowable Claim 15. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections to Claims 3-6, 17-20 and 22.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 7, 15 and 21 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 16 and 17 have been cancelled herein. Accordingly, all the remaining pending claims are in condition for allowance. An expeditious Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, the Applicant's attorney can be reached at Tel: 408-879-6149.

Respectfully submitted,



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*I hereby certify that this correspondence is filed via EFS-Web with the United States Patent & Trademark Office on December 13, 2007.*

By Susan Wiens  
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